



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Date: Sept. 16, 2010

**Contact: Diann Ritschard
970-870-2187**

Forests are dry, please be careful with fire

(Laramie, Wyo.) – People visiting the national forests and grasslands this fall are reminded to be extra cautious with campfires. With little measurable rain in the last few weeks vegetation is dry and becoming dormant, making it ready to burn. There is potential for large fire growth under these conditions.

Recent fires were caused by sparks from welders and grinders, debris burning, and over-heated brakes on an ATV. Unattended and escaped campfires have also been the source of numerous wildland fires this season. Vehicles that are hot from driving can also cause fires when parked in tall dry grass.

Here are a few tips to follow to keep fire use safe:

- Use existing fire pits where available
- Clear vegetation and debris to bare soil in areas where fire will be used
- Have water and a shovel handy
- Make sure cigarettes and matches are cold before discarding them
- Never, ever leave a campfire unattended. One small spark can quickly become a raging wildland fire.
- Stir water and dirt into coals until the fire is dead out
- Try to avoid building campfires on windy days
- Don't park in tall grass or brush; hot tail pipes can start fires

Warm, dry conditions are expected through next week, any isolated thunderstorms will bring gusty winds with little or no rain. The national forests and grasslands belong to all Americans. Please protect and enjoy your public lands.

Smoke from Utah fire causing haze

The Twitchell Fire southwest of Richfield, Utah is the source of haze experienced the past few days in northwest Colorado. It is 20,870 acres and being managed for multiple objectives including benefits to natural resources.